--16. (New) A three-dimensionally structured fibrous web comprising:

a composite;

the composite being subjected to one of a thermal embossing-calendering and an ultrasound calendering and being shrunk by an influence of one of heat and water vapor;

wherein the composite consists of one of a scrim, a lattice and a netting, the one of the scrim, the lattice and the netting being covered on both sides by a nonwoven fabric;

wherein the one of the scrim, the lattice and the netting is made of thermoplastic continuous-filaments having a mesh, the mesh having points of contact and filament crossing points in longitudinal and transverse directions;

wherein the mesh has a mesh size of 0.01 to 9 cm2;

wherein the continuous filaments are 150 to 2000 μm thick and are thermally fused to each other at their points of contact;

wherein the filament crossing points in the longitudinal and transverse directions are not less distant from each other than 0.10 cm; and

wherein the nonwoven fabric layer has one of repeating fold-shaped elevations and repeating wave-shaped elevations.

17. (New) The fibrous web according to claim 16,

wherein the thermoplastic continuous-filaments of the one of the scrim, the lattice and the netting have a first thickness at the crossing points and a second thickness between the crossing points, the first thickness being up to seven times the second thickness.

18. (New) The fibrous web according to claim 16,

wherein the nonwoven fabric has individual fibers, the individual fibers being bonded to each other using a bonding agent that has a hard grip.

19. (New) The fibrous web according to claim 16,

wherein the nonwoven fabric is made up of one of core bicomponent fibers, sheath bicomponent fibers and side-by-side bicomponent fibers, the one of the core bicomponent fibers, the sheath bicomponent fibers and the side-by-side bicomponent fibers consisting of components, the components being different with respect to their softening point.

20. (New) A method for manufacturing a three-dimensionally structured fibrous web comprising the following steps:

covering one of at least one lattice layer, at least one scrim layer and at least one netting layer with a nonwoven fabric layer on both sides, each layer of the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer weighing 3 to 300 g/m2, the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer being made of plastic continuous filaments having a mesh, the mesh having filament crossing points and having a mesh size of 0.01 to 9 cm2 and being biaxially stretched, a distance of adjacent ones of the filament crossing points being not less than 0.10 cm;

bonding the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer with the nonwoven fabric layer on both sides in continuous fashion using a laminating technique;

subjecting the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer with the nonwoven fabric layer on both sides which has been bonded to one of a thermal embossing-calendering and an ultrasound calendering; and

subsequently subjecting the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer with the nonwoven fabric layer on both sides which was subjected to the one of the thermal embossing-calendering and the ultrasound calendering to a shrinking process at a temperature which lies between a softening and melting range of a material of the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

covering at least one layer of the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer on one of one side and both sides with an unbonded nonwoven, the at least one layer of the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer having a shrinkable component, the shrinkable component having a meting point, the unbonded nonwoven being made up at least partly of bicomponent fibers having a high- and a low-melting component, the low-melting component having a melting point that is not higher than the melting point of the shrinkable component;

subjecting the at least one layer of the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer covered on the one of one side and both sides with

the unbonded nonwoven to one of a thermal embossing-calendering and an ultrasound calendering; and

subsequently carrying out a shrinking of the at least one layer of the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer covered on the one of one side and both sides with the unbonded nonwoven which was subjected to the one of the thermal embossing-calendering and the ultrasound calendering, the shrinking being carried out as a result of the influence of heat or using water vapor.

22. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

stretching the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer in a longitudinal direction between rolls that are running at different speeds, and in a transverse direction using an expanding tenter frame.

23. (New) The fibrous web according to claim 17,

wherein the nonwoven fabric has individual fibers, the individual fibers being bonded to each other using a bonding agent that has a hard grip.

24. (New) The fibrous web according to claim 17,

wherein the nonwoven fabric is made up of one of core bicomponent fibers, sheath bicomponent fibers and side-by-side bicomponent fibers, the one of the core bicomponent fibers, the sheath bicomponent fibers and the side-by-side bicomponent fibers consisting of components, the components being different with respect to their softening point.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of:

stretching the one of the at least one lattice layer, the at least one scrim layer and the at least one netting layer in a longitudinal direction between rolls that are running at different speeds, and in a transverse direction using an expanding tenter frame.-- .

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice Figures 2 and 3, original claims 1-15 and substitute claims 1-7 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP99/08225, and adds without prejudice new claims 16-25. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not add new matter to the application.